

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 /057 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3877
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AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03682

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO MPOL SP UK
SUBJECT: SPANISH DEFENSE CHIEF TO VISIT UK

REF: LONDON 2315

1. AT THE INVITATION OF CHIEF OF THE DEFENSE STAFF
MARSHAL OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE SIR NEIL CAMERON, LT
GEN FELIPE GALARZA SANCHEZ (CHIEF OF THE HIGH GENERAL
STAFF AND CHAIRMAN OF THE CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE)
IS TO VISIT THE UK FROM 6 TO 11 MARCH.
2. GENERAL GALARZA WILL MEET SENIOR MOD OFFICIALS AS
WELL AS VISIT VARIOUS MOD ESTABLISHMENTS SUCH AS THE
ROYAL SCHOOL OF ARTILLERY, THE SCHOOL OF INFANTRY,
ROYAL NAVAL AIR STATION YEOVILTON AND RAF WITTERING.
AT YEOVILTON HE WILL FLY IN A ROYAL NAVY LYNX ASW
HELICOPTER AND AT WITTERING HE WILL SEE HARRIER AIRCRAF
AND RAPIER AIR DEFENSE MISSILES.
3. COMMENT: HENN, HEAD OF DS-12, MOD, TOLD POL-MIL
ATTACHE THAT FORTHCOMING VISIT IS BEING LOOKED ON AS
DEFINITELY NOT ROUTINE AND VERY MUCH AS AN ELEMENT IN
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THE PROCESS OF REESTABLISHING THE FULL ACCEPTABILITY
OF SPANISH MILITARY CREDENTIALS. IT IS, HE OBSERVED,
A SMALL PART IN THE PROCESS OF BETTERING ANGLO-SPANISH
MILITARY RELATIONS AND UK LOOKS FORWARD TO SPANISH
RECIPROCATION. THIS VISIT IS FIRST OF ITS KIND SINCE
MAY 1973 WHEN GENERAL ALEGRIA ACCOMPANIED FOREIGN
MINISTER LOPEZ BRAVO AND UNOBTRUSIVELY DETACHED HIMSELF

FOR A "PRIVATE" VISIT TO MOD. AS HENN PUT IT, BOTH
OWEN AND MULLEY WANT TO MAKE THE GALARZA VISIT FAIRLY
OPEN AND PUBLIC NOW THAT SPAIN HAS "RETURNED TO
DEMOCRACY."

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